



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Annual Report 2021/22





INTRODUCTION

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This report covers our activities and finances for our Financial Year: 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Our aim remains to accelerate the transition to a fair and healthy zero carbon Greater Cambridge.

We aim to play an important role in the Greater Cambridge low carbon "eco-system"; as a source of well informed, ambitious ideas for local councils and other bodies; as an independent voice cutting through the 'greenwash'; and as a supportive community for those working to accelerate the transition to Net Zero.

In creating our resources, events and articles we aim to tap into the wealth of local expertise and concern about climate change. We use our contacts and advisors to help us identify and publicise key opportunities and threats, particularly those that are important but neglected. We help our volunteer Members undertake research projects of interest to them, and then disseminate the results.

In our fourth year of operation, work has been more "behind the scenes" than in previous years, focussing on influencing key local organisations, rather than putting on a major event.

Two main strands of work were

Activities in support of the Zero Carbon Homes policy in the draft Local Plan,

Mobilising groups from across Cambridge to get involved in the "COP 26 Global Day of Action" rally in Cambridge.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

(October-December 2021)

The development of the draft “Local Plan” is important, because it will guide development in our region until 2041. We have been engaging with this since 2018.

When the consultation was launched, we were pleased to see that it included an excellent Net Zero Carbon Homes policy.

This policy (CC/NZ) could easily have been overlooked by the community in the storm of protest about the unsustainable number of new homes proposed in our water stressed region. However, the policy deserves strong support because it proposes a requirement that all new homes are so well designed and built that their space heating demand is about one tenth that of a typical newbuild.

With the looming energy crisis, this is even more important than ever.

During the formal Consultation on the draft Local Plan in Autumn 2021, we mobilised awareness and support for the policy by writing articles for the Cambridge Independent in October, November and December. These were also published on our blog and promoted on social media.

At the Global Day of Action rally in Cambridge on 6 November 2021 we handed out 500 leaflets urging support for the policy to participants and passers-by.

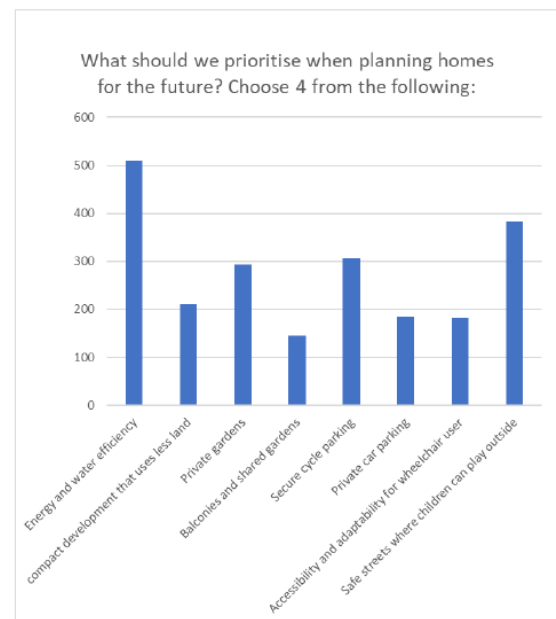


We were pleased to see that this resulted in 82 comments being made on the policy, and that these demonstrated strong support for it.

The policy, CC/NZ, is now being refined and strengthened ahead of another formal consultation in Autumn 2023.

In another question on the consultation, in order to understand sentiment about trade-offs, respondents were asked to prioritise different aspects of housing design.

Energy and Water efficiency were by far people’s top priority, followed by safe streets for children to play outside.



<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s127584/Appendix%20A%20-%20Greater%20Cambridge%20Local%20Plan%20First%20Proposals%20Consultation%20Report.pdf>

COP26 “Global Day of Action” (November 2021)



<https://mobile.twitter.com/camcycle/status/1456973437214224388>

The critically important UNFCC COP26 climate talks were held in Glasgow in November 2021. Because it was during the pandemic, which made travel to Glasgow difficult for many, rallies calling for climate justice were held round the country.

Cambridge became the main hub for the East of England, and we were keen to support this. We joined the steering group and helped with publicity, mobilising other local groups, large and small, to join the rally.



Cambridge Independent (Ongoing)

Carbon Neutral Cambridge has continued to write a monthly column in the Cambridge Independent newspaper.

Meetings

During the year we met online with officers at number of key local bodies

These included:

Meeting with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate (CPICC), to discuss ways to help create a Just Transition.

Meeting with Cambridge City Council's environmental health team, to understand how they are enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) and encouraging them to be more active to protect tenants.

Meeting with the Local Resilience Forum, including providing resources to help them improve the local response to climate related emergencies.

Regular meetings with Cambridge City Council, as part of the Local Climate forum.

An interview by Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction (CSIC) on *Facilitating Policy Change Towards Low Carbon Mobility*

Consultations (Ongoing)

We responded to several consultations during the year.

- East West Rail
- Cambridge Market Square.
- The Local Plan
- Sunnica Solar Farm
- OxCam Arc

From the Ground up.

Our films on resilient agriculture continue to inspire, with over 500 pageviews on our website, and 8086 viewings on our YouTube channel during the year.

The team were so inspired by making it, that they're now making a full documentary: "Six Inches of Soil"

Extract from South Cambs "Report on First Proposals Consultation on Greater Cambridge Local Plan".

Policy CC/NZ: Net zero carbon new buildings

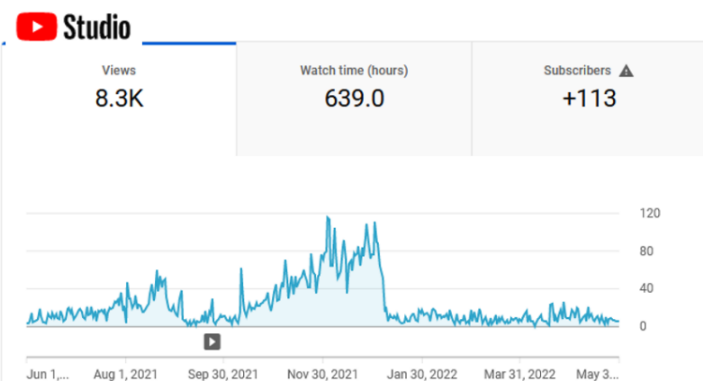
Strong support for the proposed policy and that it goes beyond current requirements, but further detail and clarity will be required, and it should be applied to all new housing developments. Comments about life-cycle carbon emissions and that the policy should recognise the savings from re-using buildings rather than building new. Concerns that the policy will increase the cost of construction and impact on viability.

"We have had a strong level of support for the NZ policy, likely from you helping to mobilise support"

Emma Davies BSc, MSc, MA | Principal Sustainability Officer



In the selected period, your channel got **8,279 views**



Top mention earned 61 engagements



Nicola Terry

@ngterry5 · Apr 20

Very sensible conditions recommended by @CarbonNtrlCambs for Sunnica solar farm carbonneutralcambridge.org/were-opposing-...

"Thank you for your time .. it is very much appreciated" **Jamie Fountain**

Resilience Manager / NILO

Resilience and Specialist Operations



NHS

East of England Ambulance Service
NHS Trust

Our Hot Numbers work featured in the CPICC's final report





Carbon Neutral Cambridge

Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 May 2022



Carbon
Neutral
Cambridge

Income & expenditure account

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income		
Grants	-	3,000
Donation	-	500
Total income	<u>-</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Expenditure		
Film	-	2,880
Administration	225	478
Leaflets	100	-
Total expenditure	<u>325</u>	<u>3,358</u>
(Loss)/Surplus for the year	<u><u>(£325)</u></u>	<u><u>£142</u></u>

Balance sheet as at 31 May 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	-	500
Cash at bank	4,125	4,601
less accrued expenses	325	976
	<u><u>3,800</u></u>	<u><u>4,125</u></u>
Funds		
Funds brought forward	4,125	3,983
(Loss)/Surplus for the year	<u>(325)</u>	<u>142</u>
Funds at 31 May 2021	<u><u>£3,800</u></u>	<u><u>£4,125</u></u>

Do Join us

As a volunteer run organisation, our activities depend on our Members' enthusiasm and interests. To support their work, we offer help, contacts and advice, raise a modest level of financial support, and help disseminate the results to those that can make a difference.

If you support our aims and approach, do join us as a Member and get involved in ways that interest you. (Membership is free). To simply stay in touch, be informed of events, and help disseminate the results of our work, follow us on Twitter and join our mailing list.

We hope to build on our work in the coming year with the activities in the following areas

Local Planning Consultations (ongoing)

We plan to continue to engage in the process of developing Greater Cambridge's new Local Plan, and other top level local planning consultations, to ensure that the aspirational words about achieving "Net Zero" and "Low Carbon" developments are not just greenwash, but lead to real tangible near term actions to substantially reduce Greater Cambridge's carbon emissions.

We also plan to continue helping Cambridge City Council develop and implement their Climate Strategy, aiming to increase the level of ambition and specificity.

BigSolar.coop

We plan to help BigSolar.coop widen access to subsidy-free solar on commercial and community buildings in Greater Cambridge. In this new approach, sites are identified by volunteers, the panels are installed for free by [BigSolar.coop](https://www.bigsolar.coop) which then sells the panel's power to the building occupier at a rate that's guaranteed to be less than the rate they're paying for grid electricity.



Committee Members 2020/21

- Anne Miller (Chair)
- Claire Mackenzie
- Hilary Seaward (Treasurer)
- Isabella Butnar
- James Smith (Secretary)
- Richard Townley

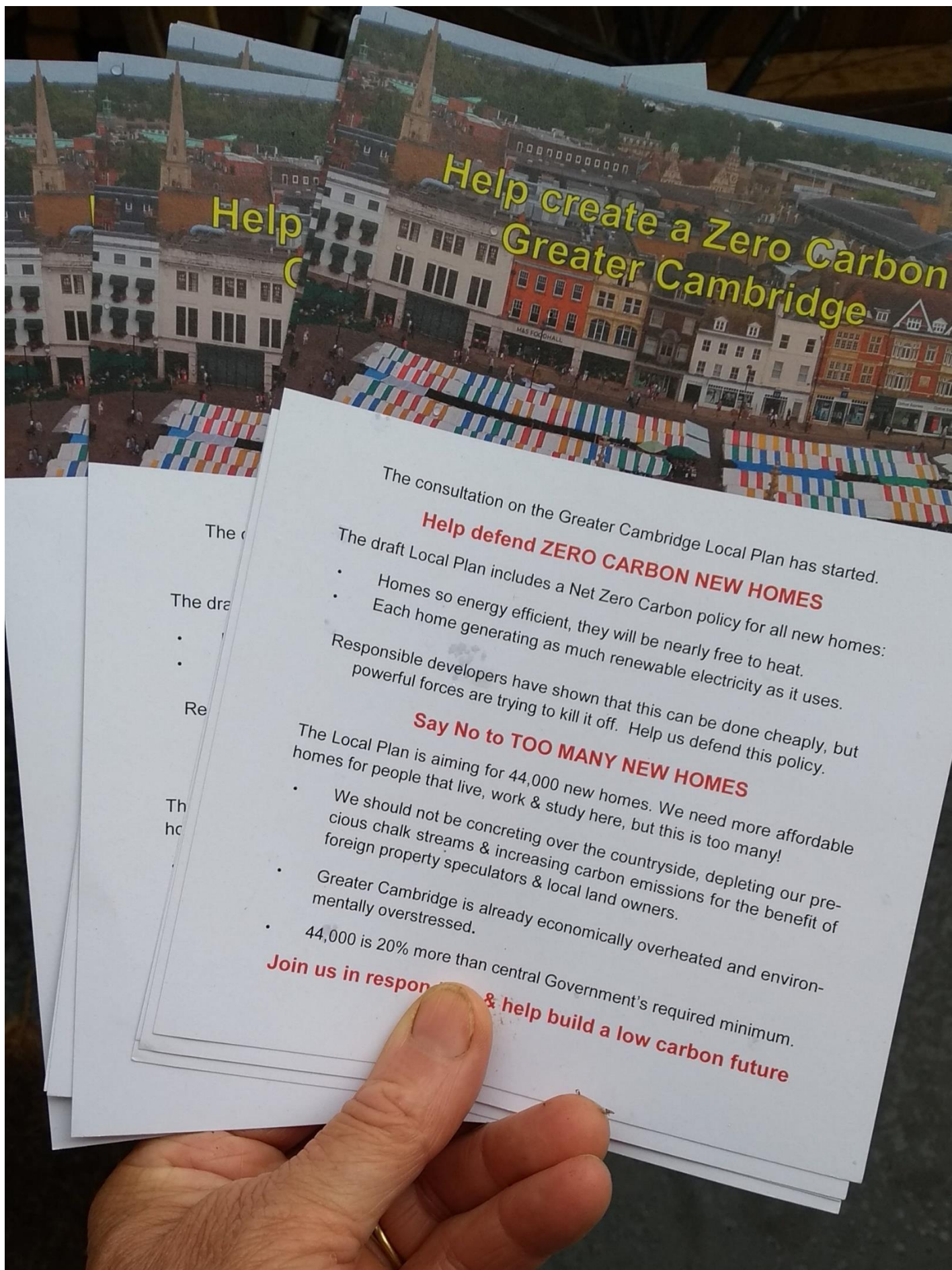
Bank: Metro Bank, 1 Christ's Lane, Cambridge

Website: <https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/>

Twitter: @CarbonNtrlCambs

CNC Youtube channel





Help create a Zero Carbon Greater Cambridge

The consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan has started.

Help defend ZERO CARBON NEW HOMES

- The draft Local Plan includes a Net Zero Carbon policy for all new homes:
- Homes so energy efficient, they will be nearly free to heat.
 - Each home generating as much renewable electricity as it uses.

Responsible developers have shown that this can be done cheaply, but powerful forces are trying to kill it off. Help us defend this policy.

Say No to TOO MANY NEW HOMES

The Local Plan is aiming for 44,000 new homes. We need more affordable homes for people that live, work & study here, but this is too many!

- We should not be concreting over the countryside, depleting our precious chalk streams & increasing carbon emissions for the benefit of foreign property speculators & local land owners.
- Greater Cambridge is already economically overheated and environmentally overstressed.
- 44,000 is 20% more than central Government's required minimum.

Join us in response & help build a low carbon future